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BENTLEY-with-ARKSEY

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Twenty-Fourth ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1948

by

J. T. BRIGGS

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1948

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bentley,
Near Doncaster.
5th May, 1949.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1948.

The major work throughout the year has been the repairing of the flood damaged houses and this has been possible only by the generosity of the Lord Mayor of London through his flood fund. This has enabled the owners of such property to carry out the very necessary and extensive repairs especially in Toll Bar, where a derelict area would have developed without such help.

The Council and people affected by the flood are full of appreciation of the help so received and details of the work carried out are contained in the report.

I feel that I must express my thanks to the members of the staff for their help in this heavy task, and to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Dr. Ferguson for their valuable support during the year.

Yours faithfully,
J. T. BRIGGS,
Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

J. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary, Housing and Petroleum Inspector.

J. T. BRIGGS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate	Royal Sanitary
Sanitary Science Certificate	Institute
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate	do.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate	do.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

L. HAY, M.S.I.A.,
Certificate S.I.J.B.

Clerks.

L. BARBER (on full time Course of Training).
J. COWLING (Miss).

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections
No. of visits made	5632	453
,, complaints received	344	
,, complaints confirmed	302	
,, letters in lieu of notices ...	26	
,, verbal notices	106	
,, informal notices	344	
,, statutory notices	56	
,, letters and notices outstanding 31st December, 1948 ...	74	
,, matters referred to Surveyor	23	

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Slaughterhouses	322	
Meat and Food Inspections	362	
Accumulations	4	1
Animals and Poultry	4	
Bakehouses	12	
Cesspools	2	
Closets - Water	76	24
Closets - Pail	5	2
Cowsheds	46	
Dairies	66	
Drains	105	10
Dustbins	106	51
Factories	52	
Fish Friers	17	
Food preparing places	16	
Food Stores and Shops	61	
Flooding		
Flood Repairs	1661	
Houses re defects	220	
Housing re Scarlet Fever	23	
,, Diphtheria	1	
,, Typhoid	2	
,, Tuberculosis	9	
,, Sub-Tenants	64	
,, Overcrowding	16	
,, Dirty conditions	25	
,, Bugs	6	1
,, other Vermin	6	
Housing Act	1	5
Ice Cream Premises	21	
Interviews	115	
Knackers Yard	53	
Moveable Dwellings	529	
Moveable Dwelling Sites	27	
Nuisances Noted	3	
Offensive Trades	53	
Petroleum	10	
Piggeries	5	
Prospective Council Tenants ...	355	

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections
Rats and Mice	110	
Structures - dangerous	12	
Sampling :		
Ice Cream - Bacterial Test ...	28	
Milk - Bacterial Test	129	
Water - Bacterial Test	37	
Milk - Food & Drugs Chemical ...	—	
Water - Food & Drugs Chemical	8	
Milk - Biological	1	
Sanitary Inspections	404	330
Sewage Works	4	
Sewers	57	
Shops Act	5	
Smoke Observations	38	
Special Visits	267	
Streams and Watercourses	3	
Street Gullies and Channels	12	
Tips	4	
Urinals	3	
Vacated Council Houses	5	
Water Supplies	32	12
Yards	12	17

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

HOUSES — INTERNAL	Normal	Flood
Coppers renewed	7	2
Coppers refixed	—	2
Coppers brickwork repaired	—	62
Cupboard doors repaired	—	52
Cupboard doors renewed	—	4
Doors repaired or renewed	6	613
Doors rehanged	1	33
Doors fasteners renewed	1	646
Fireplaces :		
Repaired	—	79
Renewed	—	57
Cooking ranges repaired	15	58
Cooking ranges renewed	—	75
Firebacks renewed	4	—
Fireback boilers renewed	2	—
Firebars renewed	4	—
Hearths renewed	1	156
Jambs renewed	2	269
Smokey flues cured	2	—
Floors repaired	15	152
Floors renewed	1	101
Gas pipes renewed	3	—
Handrails refixed	3	—
Sinks refixed	2	20
Sinks renewed	4	—
Sinks provided	1	—

	Normal	Flood
Sinks waste pipes renewed	7	—
Sinks draining board renewed ...	—	1
Bath waste pipes repaired	3	—
Staircases repaired	—	3
Walls		
Replastered	38	207
Cement rendered	2	20
Rebuilt	—	2
Repaired	—	6
Ceilings Repaired	52	—
Water Services :		
Pipes renewed	7	—
Pipes repaired	5	—
Cylinders renewed	2	—
Taps renewed	2	—
Electric wiring renewed	1	3
Verminous houses cleansed	21	—

HOUSES - EXTERNAL

Chimneys repaired	1	—
Chimney pots renewed	2	—
Damp walls cured	2	—
Gates repaired	—	68
Gates renewed	2	50
Roofs :		
Repaired	25	—
Spouts repaired or renewed ...	22	—
Rain water fall pipes renewed ...	12	—
Lead flashings renewed	4	—
Bay window roofs repaired	5	—
Walls repointed and repaired	6	172
Walls rebuilt	—	182
Windows :		
Renewed and repaired	9	226
Fasteners renewed	2	202
Sash cords renewed	4	250
Refixed	—	10
Glass renewed	—	406
Yards repaved	11	46
Steps refixed	—	1
Dustbins renewed	180	30
Houses painted	—	202

DRAINS

Cleansed	130	—
Constructed	12	—
Reconstructed	1	—
Inspection chambers repaired ...	3	—
Inspection chambers built	2	—
Inspection chamber covers renewed ...	5	5
Sewers cleansed	24	—
Cesspools built	1	—

CLOSETS	Normal	Flood
Basins renewed	17	22
Basins cleansed	2	—
Basin seats renewed	19	15
Cisterns repaired and renewed ...	7	6
Flush pipes renewed	3	—
Water pipes repaired	4	—
Additional	10	—
Pails abolished	2	—
Walls repaired	—	27
Roofs repaired	—	4
Doors and frames repaired	—	54
Doors renewed	—	10
Windows renewed	—	7
Spouts repaired	—	4
Floors repaired	—	22
Rebuilt	—	4
COALPLACES:		
Repaired	—	19
Doors repaired	—	54
Doors renewed	—	14
GENERAL		
Central heating system repaired ...	—	1
Shop counter repaired	—	1
Shop windows renewed	—	3
Sites cleared of rubble	—	4
Fat intercepting chamber built ...	1	—
Cesspool abolished	1	—
Accumulations removed	4	—
Rats and Mice Infestations cleared ...	18	—
COWSHEDS		
Wooden partition renewed	—	1
Walls cement rendered	—	1
Walls cleansed	34	—
Dairy rebuilt	—	1
FACTORIES		
Water closets provided	7	—
Drains constructed	7	—

Flood Repair Work.

The task of repairing the property damaged by the flood of 1947 has progressed throughout the year and it has proved to be the major item of work for the department. The bulk of the work has now been done and the remainder will be completed early in 1949. The supply of materials has been fairly constant and when shortages have occurred, Government departments and trade distributors have been very helpful when it was realised that such materials were required for flood damaged property. The number of houses

repaired was 204 making a grand total of 527, the cost for the year was £11,057 11s. 0d. and the total cost to date is £18,282 16s. 3d. The details of the repairs are given in the summary of repair work under the Public Health and Housing Acts. The area which suffered the greatest damage is now in a better state of repair than for many years past and this is due entirely to the generosity of the Lord Mayor of London through the flood fund.

Flooding.

There has been no risk of flooding during the year mainly because of the absence of continuous heavy rains. The Toll Bar area has also been redrained by deepening the dykes, constructing new drains up to three feet in diameter, and the building of a new pumping station which, during heavy rains, pumps the water out of the district immediately.

Work Carried out on Default of Owners.

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9 and 10 :

General repairs to two houses at a cost of £25. Legal proceedings were taken against the owner for recovery of costs totalling £31 2s. 0d.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75 :
Dustbins Supplied ... 38.

Property Repairs.

The repairing of house property is still a difficult problem but from a slightly different cause. Many of the essential materials are easier to obtain and the few which are in short supply can usually be obtained with a little effort and trouble. The main factors at the moment are shortage of labour and prohibitive costs, and the cost is a very serious item for many owners. In spite of these drawbacks much work has been done in this respect.

Shops Act.

Very little work has been done under this heading as the time was needed for supervising flood repair work.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

Eight samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and were found to be satisfactory, the main fault of each sample was its hardness and this varied from 21 degrees to 113 degrees of total hardness. The supply has been good and constant throughout the year.

Twenty-two samples were taken for bacterial test, one was unsatisfactory and one was doubtful. The unsatisfactory one was from a churn carried supply and the doubtful one was from the public supply. As all other samples from the public supply were good it is possible that the doubtful sample came from a tap which was contaminated.

Privies and Pail Closets.

All properties within reach of the sewers are now connected. There are twelve privies and twenty-three pail closets remaining.

Cleansing of Drains.

The arrangements made in 1942 for cleansing drains still continue and are working satisfactorily and such nuisances are rapidly abated.

Verminous Premises.

Bugs: Two Council houses and four privately owned were treated.

Ants: Five Council houses were treated.

Blackclocks, Crickets, etc.: Ten Council houses and one privately owned were treated.

Tips: Two refuse tips were treated for crickets with good results.

D.D.T. and Gammexane have been in general use in cases of vermin infestation with very good results. Liquid D.D.T. has been used with excellent results in food preparing places, slaughterhouses and cowsheds.

Rodent Control.

This work has been carried out on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the results have been very satisfactory. Premises and sites have been cleared completely and there is a distinct fall in the number of bodies found compared with former years.

No. of premises treated	18
No. of baiting points	294
No. of baits - unpoisoned	1470
No. of baits - poisoned	294
No. of dead rats found	372
Estimated kill - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries formula	1655

Smoke Observations.

Eighteen smoke observations were taken, all of one chimney, which is a consistent offender. The Management has been notified and given records of the observations but with no noticeable improvement. The matter is being followed up.

Burning Colliery Tip.

The refuse heap to the one colliery in the district is still a nuisance and there appears to be no improvement. The Management is experimenting with spraying apparatus but this has not yet made any appreciable difference to the volume of smoke and fumes. Until some efficient means of treatment is found, people in the surrounding area must live in discomfort and suffer in health.

Moveable Dwellings.

There is no increase in this form of dwelling and there are four sites which are licensed containing ten dwellings. Itinerant hawkers use unlicensed sites and country lanes for a few weeks whilst working the district, and during racing periods some people have let-off fields to accommodate colonies of vans, but they have been warned that legal action will follow upon re-occurrence.

Offensive Trades.

Bone Boiler and Blood Drier	1

There was no new application for consent to the establishment of an offensive trade during the year.

Petroleum.

Twenty-eight licences were issued for the storage of petroleum in bulk.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Dairymen, Cowsheds and Dairies.

Retailers taken off register	2
Retailers entered on register	—
Retailers of Bottled Milk—Sterilised ...	22
Retailers on register 31st December, 1948	41
Producers	18
Wholesalers	22
Cowsheds	34
Registered premises	23

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 - 1948.

Dealers' licences for the sale of:	
Pasteurised Milk	7
Tuberculin Tested Milk	7
Supplementary licences for the sale of:	
Pasteurised Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Slaughterhouses.

There are five slaughterhouses and one knackers yard licensed for use. One newly constructed slaughterhouse was opened for slaughtering horses for sale for human consumption. Private slaughtering ceased after January, 1941, when war time control of slaughtering was centralised in public abattoirs.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

These have been properly observed with regard to notices.

Special notices from slaughterhouses ...	71
Special notices from other premises ...	28

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Humane slaughtering of all animals in accordance with the Act is in force throughout the district.

No. of slaughtermen's licences issued ...	22

Milk Sampling.

Under the West Riding County Council's scheme your Sanitary Inspector carries out the sampling of milk in this area. Owing to pressure of work caused by flood damage repairs this was not possible during the year.

Food Preparing Premises.

Preparation or storage of Ice Cream ...	9
Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods	16
Fish Friers	15

Fish Friers.

All premises were kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness. One person commenced a fish frying business in a mobile shop towards the end of the year. The vehicle has an all metal body and is equipped with a small sized two pan cooking range heated with hard fuel, potatoes are carried whole in small bins and chipped as required, and fish is carried in an enamel container. There are good shelves and racks and there is sufficient space for a sink and water heater unit which is to be fitted later. All food is prepared in a properly equipped place at home.

Meat and Food Inspections.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	322
No. of Animals slaughtered : Pigs	172
Horses	1365
Inspections of Meat and Food	362
No. of condemnations	143

Condemnations of Foodstuffs.

Fish - wet	72	lbs.
Fish - 15 tins	17½	lbs.
Fish Paste - 4 jars	1	lb.
Jams - 53 jars	54	lbs.
Fruit - 5 tins	7	lbs.
Currants	51	lbs.
Date Paste - 80 packets	40	lbs.
Boiled Sweets	4½	lbs.
Puddings - 1 tin	¾	lb.
Vegetables - 44 tins	73½	lbs.
Tomatoes	17	lbs.
Bovril and Oxo - 5 jars	2	lbs.
Sauces - 11 bottles	12½	lbs.
Pickles - 3 jars	3	lbs.
Milk - 31 tins	28½	lbs.
Cheese	27	lbs.
Butter	3¼	lbs.
Eggs - 300	42	lbs.
Eggs - 2 packets	1	lb.
Suet - 1 packet	½	lb.
Yeast	1	lb.
Meat and Sausage - 39 tins	96	lbs.
Pigs Trotters	134	lbs.
Bacon	20	lbs.
Rabbits	82	lbs.
Pig - Carcase and offal	420	lbs.
Horses - Carcases and offals 14 ...	8955	lbs.
Horses - Quarters 4	599	lbs.
Horses - Livers 92	1288	lbs.
Horses - Heart and Tongue	14	lbs.
Total	12067	lbs.

Ice Cream.

No. of registered premises :

Manufacturers 2. Retailers 7.

The production and sale of ice cream has been followed up during the year and 32 samples were taken for bacterial test and the results are given below. The manufacturers in the district are very keen on factory and sales hygiene and are always striving for better results. The position with regard to modern machinery is still very tight.

Report on Ice Cream Samples.

Samples		B. Coli.		Methylene Blue Test Grade	Remarks
No.	Number	Dilution	No. of Tubes Positive		
3	14, 16, 17	1 in 10	1	3	16 samples in Grade 1 & 1 sample in Grade 2 were free from B. Coli. Where B. Coli was present it was of non-faecal origin.
2	9, 23	1 in 10	1	2	
10	18 to 22 24 to 26 31, 32	1 in 10	1	1	
1	5	1 in 10	Nil	2	
16	1 to 4 6 to 8 10 to 13 15 27 to 30	1 in 10	Nil	1	

MILK.

Samples for Bacterial Test.

Type	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ordinary Milk ...	66	36	30
Graded Milk	44	41	3
Bottled, Sterilised ...	19	19	—
Total ...	129	96	33

Ordinary Milks.

Time of Decolourisation	Summer Time	Winter Time
Under 1 hour	—	1
Between 1 hour and 2 hours	4	1
,, 2 hours and 3 hours	4	3
,, 3 hours and 4 hours	2	5
,, 4 hours and 5 hours	5	3
,, 5 hours and 5½ hours	2	—
Satisfactory	13	23

Graded Milks.

No. of Samples	Type	Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Remarks
22	Pasteurised	over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory
19	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory
3	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	over ½ hour	Group 1	Not Satisfactory

Sterilised Milk.

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Remarks
19	Over 5½ hours	Group 1	Satisfactory

One sample of milk was taken for biological test to close investigations into tuberculosis in a dairy herd.

The number of satisfactory samples shows an improvement on the previous year on all types except raw milk produced locally and in this case the proportions of good and bad are about the same as last year.

Some of the smaller dairymen are now making use of cold rooms for the storage of milk with an obvious advantage in the warmer weather, two such rooms have been constructed during the year.

In one instance a crate of full bottles of milk on the highway being fouled by a dog was observed and immediate action taken, the milk was confiscated and the firm notified of the action. A letter was addressed to the milk retailers asking them to stop dumping crates of milk on the highway, and it has now ceased.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Cases Notified and Investigated.

Cases notified 36
Cases removed to Hospital 36

Classification

Scarlet Fever 34
Diphtheria 2

Distribution.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Totals
Toll Bar	1	—	1
New Village	6	—	6
Arksey	1	—	1
Old Bentley	8	—	8
Bentley Road	13	1	14
North Road	5	1	6
Total	34	2	36

2. Tuberculosis.

New notifications	31
No. on Register, 31st December 1948	
Pulmonary	99
Non-pulmonary	47

3. **Disinfections.**

Houses	39

HOUSING.

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

A number of complaints were received about overcrowding, 16 of which were confirmed. It is not possible to help such cases unless they qualify for a house under the Council's housing scheme.

Housing Acts 1925—1936 - Clearance Areas.

Of the clearance areas put in hand in 1937, two houses remain and one is still occupied. No further work has been done in this respect since the war commenced.